vendors, wherever cash-keepers attached to civil courts have been entrusted with that work. But, as already stated, with their gradual disappearance the vendors will be asked to sell court-fees stamps also.

145. Grant of permission for local cultivation of ganja, tobacco and opium.

Mr. Nrayanan Madhavan Karthavu (*Shertallay*) *and Mr. V. Sankaranarayana Iyer, B. A., B. L.*, (*Agastiswaram*) prayed for permission being given to the ryots of the State for the cultivation of ganja and tobacco.

Mr. K. S. Shanmukham Pillai (*Agricultural Improvement Association, South Travancore*) requested that in addition to the above, permission might be granted for the cultivation of opium also and that the concession might at first be restricted to some particular tract and afterwards extended to other parts, if found practicable.

Reply.—There are very many practical difficulties in allowing the free cultivation of opium, ganja and tobacco. The matter is, however, engaging the attention of Government. As regards ganja section 10 of Regulation IV of 1073 provides for permission being given for its cultivation under certain conditions. The manufacture of opium is regulated by section 4 of Regulation VI of 1063.

146. Reduction of Mel-labhom duty on tobacco.

Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (*Ettumanur*) represented that the mel-labhom levied by Government on tobacco was higher than what obtained in Cochin and prayed for a reduction of the same.

Reply.—This affects the finances and it does not now seem expedient to reduce the Mel-labhom.

147. Desirability of giving out Abkari contracts by proverties, instead of by taluks as at present.

Mr. N. Narayanan Karthavu (*Shertallay*) suggested that the Abkari contracts might be given out proverty by proverty instead of by taluk as was the practice at present, as it was only under the proposed arrangement that the natives of the State, who were generally poor, would be able to take up and thereby profit by these contracts.

Reply.—The contract is now being sold by taluk and it is not possible to go down to proverties.

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